



# H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: November 30, 2009  
To: All Healthcare Providers  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Widespread<sup>1</sup>; H1N1 predominant circulating strain

**Rhode Island<sup>2</sup>:** 336 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths

**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)<sup>3</sup>:** Rhode Island: 5.4%, New England Region: 6.0%, Nation: 3.9%

## **H1N1 school-based clinic vaccine uptake**

68,608 school-aged children have received the H1N1 vaccine over the first sixteen days of HEALTH's 28-school-day H1N1 school-based vaccination program. Of the currently enrolled students in schools with clinics held during this time period, 76% received the vaccine.

## **H1N1 vaccine provider enrollment**

HEALTH will re-open the H1N1 vaccine provider enrollment process on Wednesday, December 2 for providers who did not enroll in the program during the initial enrollment period. Current program enrollees who would like to increase their original patient estimates will also be able to make these changes in the system at this time.

**Many providers did not complete the Vaccine Ordering/Priority Group Breakdown step in the H1N1 enrollment process, which is required to finalize the enrollment process.** Providers who did not complete this step must do so now. To enroll in the H1N1 vaccine provider program, edit original enrollment information, or complete a priority group breakdown, see <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>. For vaccine order assistance, please contact Sue Duggan-Ball at 222-1580, [sue.dugganball@health.ri.gov](mailto:sue.dugganball@health.ri.gov) or Heidi Wallace at 222-4631, [heidi.wallace@health.ri.gov](mailto:heidi.wallace@health.ri.gov).

## **Seasonal and H1N1 FluMist vaccines are latex-free**

Providers should note that the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP), from which HEALTH purchases its adult seasonal flu vaccine, had incorrectly noted that the seasonal FluMist vaccine contains latex. Upon review of the product insert and conversation with a MedImmune representative, HEALTH has established this information to be incorrect. MedImmune's seasonal and H1N1 FluMist vaccines are both latex-free. To view a table of all vaccines currently offered through the CDC and the latex status of each since November 2009, see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/latex-table.pdf>.

## **New H1N1 guidance for dental health care settings**

The CDC has updated guidance for preventing the transmission of H1N1 in dental health care settings. This guidance is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/infectioncontrol/factsheets/2009\\_h1n1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/infectioncontrol/factsheets/2009_h1n1.htm). When reviewing this guidance, providers should note that current HEALTH guidelines use 100.4°F/38°C as the temperature cutoff for determining when people should stay home from work or school. HEALTH also supports the use of surgical facemasks for respiratory protection in dental health care settings if N95 respirators are not available.

<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island reported widespread activity for the week of November 15 to November 21, 2009. Influenza is circulating in all 5 regions of the state. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza-like illness activity reported by 27 sentinel surveillance sites from November 15 to November 21, 2009

### **H1N1 vaccination clinics for pregnant and post-partum women**

South County Hospital will hold an H1N1 vaccination clinic for pregnant and post-partum women up to six months post-partum this Wednesday, December 2 from 4-6pm at its Potter Conference Center at 100 Kenyon Avenue. Clinic attendees who have not yet received the seasonal flu vaccination may do so at this time as well. For more information about this clinic, see <http://www.schospital.com/news.cfm?id=459>. HEALTH will continue to communicate the dates and times of other H1N1 vaccination clinics for pregnant and post-partum women as this information is confirmed.

### **H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Island students in out-of-state schools (K-12)**

On Saturday December 12, HEALTH will run an H1N1 vaccination clinic for Rhode Islanders in grades kindergarten through 12 who attend out-of-state schools. Parents and guardians must pre-register their children for this clinic. An online enrollment system is available on HEALTH's website ([www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)). **Clinic enrollment will close at 4:00 p.m. on December 2.** The daylong clinic will run at a central, easily accessible location in Rhode Island. This location and the clinic's times of operation will be announced on HEALTH's website and through the media this week. For more information about this clinic, see <http://www.ri.gov/press/view/10184>. Frequently asked questions about this clinic are also available at <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsAboutTheH1N1VaccinationClinicForRhodeIslandersInOutOfStateSchools.pdf>.

### **H1N1 vaccination clinics for young adults (ages 19 through 24)**

HEALTH will hold H1N1 vaccination clinics in the coming month for young adults ages 19 through 24. An individual's current college enrollment status will determine which of these clinics he or she should attend. Clinics for young adults who are currently enrolled in a Rhode Island college or university have been scheduled to start this week and run through December 18<sup>th</sup>. Clinics on residential campuses will take place first, followed by clinics on campuses with no student housing. Each college is planning and scheduling its own clinics and will communicate pertinent information to students as it becomes available. Vaccine will be available later for young adults who reside in Rhode Island but who are enrolled in out-of-state colleges and universities or who are not currently enrolled in a college or university. More information will be provided in upcoming briefings.

### **Interpreting rapid influenza diagnostic test results**

According to available published data, the sensitivity of rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs) compared to RT-PCR tests for detecting influenza infection is relatively poor (~50%). A positive RIDT result indicates that a patient is likely infected with influenza. However, a negative RIDT result does not rule out influenza infection in a patient. If clinical suspicion of influenza is high in a patient who tests negative by RIDT, providers should still implement infection control measures and administer empiric antiviral therapy if indicated. For more information about the use of RIDTs, see [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid\\_testing.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm).

### **Second H1N1 dose for children aged 9 years and younger**

At present, HEALTH is still planning for the second H1N1 vaccine dose for school-aged children through 9 years of age to occur in January and suggests the same for most children six months through 5 years of age in their physicians' offices. As vaccine supply allows, second doses may be administered earlier in physicians' offices as part of routine scheduled office visits or in response to parental concerns.

### **Influenza vaccine safety**

HEALTH has developed a set of materials on H1N1 vaccine safety for providers to help them answer patients' questions and engage them in informed discussions about the safety and effectiveness of the H1N1 vaccine. These materials include:

- A letter to providers about H1N1 Flu Vaccine Safety:  
<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/LetterToProvidersAboutVaccineSafety.pdf>
- A letter from the FDA on manufacturing the H1N1 vaccine and monitoring vaccine safety:  
<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FDALetterToProvidersAboutVaccineSafety.pdf>

- An H1N1 Flu Vaccine Safety Information Sheet with additional information on the safety of vaccines and thimerosal:  
<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/H1N1FluVaccineSafetyInformationForProviders.pdf>
- A patient education piece with frequently asked questions about H1N1 flu vaccine safety in English (<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsH1N1VaccineSafety.pdf>) and Spanish (<http://www.health.ri.gov/otherlanguages/spanish/news/H1N1advisories/FrequentlyAskedQuestionsH1N1FluVaccineSafety.pdf>).

## **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>